

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 073816
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN
P - MR O'DONOHUE
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
-----030241Z 041307 /63
R 030005Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073816

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, US

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VIEWS ON CONTACTS WITH U.S.

REF: 71595

1. ON MARCH 28 SAMUEL NOUMOFF, AN AMERICAN WHO TEACHES AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY IN MONTREAL, VISITED EA/K DIRECTOR HURWITZ TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM NORTH KOREAN FONMIN HO TAM TO SECRETARY VANCE. TEXT OF LETTER SENT REFTEL. FOLLOWING, ON FYI BASIS ONLY, ARE COMMENTS NOUMOFF MADE IN CONNECTION WITH LETTER DELIVERY.

2. NOUMOFF SAID HE HAD VISITED NORTH KOREA IN LATE DECEMBER 1976 TO STUDY ITS CADRE SYSTEM AND HAD, AT THAT TIME, HELD DISCUSSIONS ON THE KOREA QUESTION WITH A NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. SOME TIME A?TER HIS RETURN TO CANADA, HE WAS ASKED BY NORTH KOREANS TO MAKE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 073816

ANOTHER VISIT TO PYONGYANG. HE DID SO IN FEBRUARY FOR A STAY OF TWO DAYS. ACCORDING TO NOUMOFF, IN VIEW OF HIS TIGHT SCHEDULE, THE NORTH KOREANS SENT A PLANE FROM PYONGYANG TO PEKING TO PICK HIM UP AND LATER RETURNED HIM TO PEKING BY ANOTHER SPECIAL FLIGHT.

3. DURING HIS SECOND STAY IN PYONGYANG, NOUMOFF SAID HE

HAD HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH HO TAM AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON THE KOREA QUESTION AND ON U.S.-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS. THE NORTH KOREANS INSISTED THAT CONTINUED TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA COULD LEAD TO A WAR WHICH WOULD RAPIDLY INVOLVE GREAT POWERS AND WHICH COULD BECOME NUCLEAR. THEY STRESSED THAT ALL POSSIBLE MEANS MUST BE EMPLOYED TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND TO SEEK PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF KOREA QUESTION.

4. NORTH KOREANS ASSERTED THERE WAS OVERRIDING NEED FOR A NORTH KOREAN-U.S. DIALOGUE TO ARRANGE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE KOREA QUESTION. CURRENT U.S. INSISTENCE THAT THE SOUTH PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH DIALOGUE WAS, ACCORDING TO NORTH KOREANS, A PRETEXT WHICH THE U.S. EMPLOYED TO AVOID U.S.-NORTH KOREAN TALKS. THE NORTH KOREANS SAID THEY DID NOT, IN FACT, WANT TO EXCLUDE THE SOUTH FROM ANY DISCUSSION OF NORTH-SOUTH SETTLEMENT. INDEED, THE NORTH HAD ALWAYS INSISTED THAT SUCH SETTLEMENT HAD TO BE ARRANGED BY THE KOREAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES. BUT PYONGYANG BELIEVED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE FOR GENUINE NORTH-SOUTH TALKS COULD BE ENHANCED BY A PRIOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE U.S. WHICH WAS AIMED AT REACHING A MORE PERMANENT PEACE ARRANGEMENT. SUCH A DIALOGUE WAS JUSTIFIED BY THE FACT THAT THE U.S. AND THE NORTH KOREANS WERE SIGNATORIES TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT.

5. NOUMOFF SAID THAT THE NORTH KOREANS TOLD HIM THEY WERE READY TO SIT DOWN WITH THE AMERICANS AT ANY MUTUALLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 073816

AGREEABLE TIME AND PLACE. THEY SUGGESTED THAT PANMUNJOM MIGHT BE ONE SITE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS. THE MEETINGS COULD BE "OPEN OR BEHIND CLOSED DOORS". THE NORTH KOREANS FIXED THREE GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR SUCH TALKS:

1. TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S POSITION.
2. TO NARROW BILATERAL DIFFERENCES.
3. TO COME TO AGREEMENT GRADUALLY.

6. COMMENTING ON THE LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM HO TAM, NOUMOFF SAID THE NORTH KOREANS HAD TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE A MISCALCULATION FOR THE AMERICANS TO INTERPRET IT AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. THEY HOPED FOR A "SINCERE AND FAVORABLE" RESPONSE AND TOLD NOUMOFF THAT THEY WOULD ARRANGE TO BRING HIM TO PYONGYANG IF AN ANSWER WAS CONVEYED TO HIM BY THE USG.

7. ACCORDING TO NOUMOFF, THE NORTH KOREANS SAID THEY HAD

TAKEN NOTE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENTIONS TO WITHDRAW
GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA AND OF HIS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN SOUTH KOREA. THEY WERE WATCHING THE SITUATION CLOSELY

TO SEE WHETHER HE FULFILLS HIS PLEDGES.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE073816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EHURWITZ:FLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770115-1030
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704101/aaaaggcj.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 64f3b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2664610
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970923
Subject: NORTH KOREAN VIEWS ON CONTACTS WITH U.S.
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, KN, KS, US, MPOL, PFOR, (NOUMOFF, SAMUEL)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64f3b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009